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LOVICK SESSION PREVIEW 2006

UPDATE ON PUBLIC SAFETY

SERVING THE 44TH DISTRICT

Dear neighbors,

It's an honor and privilege to serve as your representative. Thank you for taking the time to read this newsletter, which is about reforms to protect your family.

I take public safety seriously, both as a lawmaker and as a state trooper for 31 years. It's our duty to do whatever we can to protect our citizens.

Inside, you'll find information about key reforms we'll consider in the 2006 session, including:

- protecting your family from sex offenders;
- fighting meth addiction; and
- better planning for emergencies and natural disasters.

I hope you find this information useful. Please don't hesitate to contact my office to share your thoughts or ask a question. You can reach me by phone, e-mail or regular mail.

I hope to hear from you soon.

Sincerely yours,

Rep. John Lovick
Speaker Pro Tem

WHAT'S INSIDE:

- PROTECTING YOUR FAMILY FROM SEX OFFENDERS
- FIGHTING METH
- PREPARING YOUR FAMILY FOR A DISASTER
- SAFE SCHOOLS
- HIGH SCHOOL DROP-OUTS
- KEEPING OUR KIDS SAFE ON THE ROAD



PROTECTING YOUR FAMILY FROM SEX OFFENDERS

You can't rely on a single tool to catch a criminal. You need a whole toolbox to find and convict child molesters, rapists and other sex offenders.

I've been working with lawmakers, victims, police and prosecutors on tough reforms that will protect our families.

Tougher punishments

- 25 years to life for a violent sex offense against a child
- 25 years to life for a stranger committing sex offense against a child

Protecting children

- Requiring sex offender registration for those convicted of possessing child pornography
- Renewing the ban on sex offenders living near schools or child care centers

Making sure released sex offenders don't hurt more victims

- Toughen punishment for crime of sex offender failing to register
- Require GPS trackers on worst sex offenders (Level 3) who are homeless and have offended a child
- Require registration within 72 hours for sex offenders moving here from other states

FIGHTING METH

What's the best way to beat the meth epidemic?

I believe we must fight meth on three fronts:

- (1) Preventing our kids from getting hooked
- (2) Getting tough on addiction
- (3) Shutting off the supply of meth

Last session, we passed reforms to:

- Shut down meth labs – This law restricts access to the cold and allergy medications used to “cook” meth. It will limit purchases of these products to two packages in a 24 hour period; require retailers to keep these products in locations where they are inaccessible without assistance; and require buyers to show a photo ID and sign a log that law enforcement can use to identify excessive purchases. A similar law in Oklahoma reduced meth lab incidents by 80 percent. (House Bill 2266)
- Get tough on addiction -- Most crime is caused by addiction. To really get tough on crime, we have to get tough on addiction. House Bill 2015 fixes the diversion program (Drug Offender Sentencing Alternative) to make it more effective so we can stop the revolving door of addiction and prison.



What's next: Everyone has seen the TV and newspaper stories about meth labs, and how cooking meth creates a toxic mess.

We're making progress on denying meth cooks the chemicals they need to make meth, and we're doing a better job of cleaning up toxic meth sites.

The new problem: more and more meth is either (a) coming here straight from Mexico or (b) cooked in big super-labs run by drug cartels. So instead of individual meth cooks, we're facing a more organized and motivated enemy, and that means we have to change our laws and funding for a different kind of fight against addiction.

2006 UPDATE ON PUBLIC SAFETY



Marvin Naumann/FEMA photo

PROTECTING YOUR FAMILY WHEN A DISASTER HITS

Lawmakers from the House and Senate traveled around Washington state, meeting with citizens and talking about how to best protect your family during a disaster.

After listening to citizens and experts, we've drafted a number of reforms that the Legislature will consider during the 2006 session. Those reforms include measures to protect your family in case of:

- floods or wildfires;
- a major earthquake or tsunami;
- a volcanic eruption or mudflow from Mt. Rainier; or
- a global bird flu pandemic.

This is a great place to live, and it's true that we don't suffer from hurricanes or tornados like other parts of the nation. We do, however, face real dangers, including frequent wildfires and flooding.

As for bigger disasters like a giant earthquake or the next volcanic eruption, scientists say the question is not if, but when. So it's our duty to prepare the best we can and make sure our families are prepared to survive for the three to seven days before real federal help can arrive.



SAFE SCHOOLS

I'm pleased to say that today, more than 400 high schools in our state are protected by a school mapping program I proposed in 2001.

The system gives police officers and firefighters – via laptops – a digital map of the school, including floor plans, satellite images, emergency response plans, photos of the exterior and interior, utility shut-offs and the locations of any hazardous materials.

Police chiefs and sheriffs have already praised the school mapping system, saying it saves lives. In September of 2003, police used the school maps to respond to a gunman at Lewis and Clark High School, safely evacuating the students in 20 minutes and securing the gunman in just 10 minutes.

What's next: We'll need an additional \$4.5 million to map 1,275 middle and elementary schools. I'll work to get that funding because I believe police and firefighters can use this tool to save lives. After we've mapped our middle and elementary schools, we should expand the mapping program to other buildings like courthouses, water treatment facilities and other public buildings.

Also, I'm working on five new proposals to improve school safety. One idea for reform is to create a more comprehensive list of dangerous objects and weapons prohibited on school grounds, closing loopholes that now allow weapons such as tazers.

HIGH SCHOOL DROP - OUTS

One out of three kids will drop out of high school. One of three. That's a terrible number that directly leads to more poverty and crime.

We took a good first step to giving more of our kids a good future with House Bill 1708, which took a hard look at the problem of drop outs.

- What causes kids to drop out of high school?
- How can we keep kids in school until they get their degree?
- What solutions have a proven track record of success for kids?

Now that the answers are in, we can make progress during the 2006 session with reforms to make sure our kids stay in school until they get their diploma.

Representative Lovick meets with students visiting the State Capitol.

2006 UPDATE ON PUBLIC SAFETY

KEEPING OUR KIDS SAFE ON THE ROAD

In our state, wearing a seat belt is the law. If your dog is in the back of a pickup truck, the dog needs to be secured. So why is it legal to put your kids in the back of a pickup and roll down the highway?

Here's a true story: as a state trooper, I was patrolling a highway and watched a pickup truck pass with an unsecured dog in the back. Then along comes another pickup with three kids in the bed of the truck. The ridiculous thing is I could pull over the driver with the dog and give him a citation, but I couldn't pull over the driver putting those three kids in serious danger.

It's common sense that you can't put living beings in the back of a truck. There's a horrible chance of fatalities if there's even a minor accident.

This session, I'll introduce a reform to close this loophole and keep kids safe.



KEEPING IN TOUCH

REPRESENTATIVE

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